Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Workshop – II

Seattle, Washington – December 12 and 13, 2002

An opportunity for dialogue between the Tribes, States, NOAA Fisheries, and other Fund beneficiaries on the current and future implementation of the Fund

Sponsored by NOAA FisheriesFacilitated by For the Sake of the Salmon

In mid-December 2002, nearly 120 individuals came together for two days in Seattle, Washington to share the successes and challenges of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This Seattle meeting was the follow-up to the first PCSRF workshop held in Portland, Oregon in January 2002. The Fund is an important Congressional initiative strengthening the ability of Pacific Coast states and Tribes to help in the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead. Participants in the Seattle workshop represented the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho; the Columbia River, Northwest and Klamath River tribal fish commissions; over 20 individual Pacific Northwest Tribes; Congress; and NOAA Fisheries (from the Northwest and Southwest regions and NOAA headquarters in Silver Springs, Maryland). In addition, the Seattle workshop was attended by representatives of local governments, public utilities, watershed groups, and salmon recovery non-profits from Washington, Oregon and California.

A primary goal of the workshop was establishment of an accountable system with standards for effective use of PCSRF funds, and a structure for reporting accomplishments and successes of the program. Workshop participants came together for a facilitated discussion to build consensus on statements describing the PCSRF program goal and five program objectives. Progress was made on developing specific performance measures and indices for demonstrating and determining success in progress towards the Program goal. Ongoing discussions are being held to further refine standard quantifiable metrics that focus on outcomes to meaningfully reflect the purpose of the program.

Another important goal was to seek agreement among Tribes, States, and NOAA Fisheries on the level of coordination and consistency needed to effectively monitor and evaluate restoration and conservation efforts funded through PCSRF. Discussions were held and consensus was reached on the core set of physical and biological indicators that will be measured to enable rigorous comparison of monitoring data collected across the region by different entities. A three-tier structure for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program that had been proposed at the first workshop was further developed.

The PCSRF-II Workshop also gave participants the opportunity to provide and hear updates on the progress and successes in salmon recovery in 2002 through showcase presentations on a range of PCSRF-funded projects. Presentations by Tribes, States, watershed councils and local governments highlighted notable examples of how the PCSRF has been invested in monitoring and habitat restoration projects. Presentations and outcomes from both PCSRF workshops can be reviewed at http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/pcsrf/index.htm.